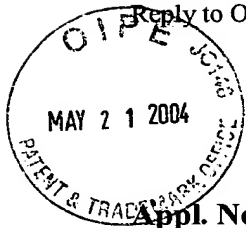


Appl. No. 09/612,582  
Amdt. Dated May 18, 2004  
Reply to Office action of November 18, 2003



2123  
# 41  
**PATENT**

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

**Appl. No. :** 09/612,582      **Confirmation No. :** 7097  
**Applicant :** Hidetoshi Narahara  
**Filed :** July 7, 2000  
**TC/AU :** 2123  
**Examiner:** Kandasamy Thangavelu  
**Docket No. :** 32796  
**Customer No.:** 116

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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**AMENDMENT "A"**

Sir:

The three month response period for responding to the Office action of November 18, 2003 expired on February 18, 2004. Applicant's hereby petition and request a three (3) month extension of time to extend the respond period from February 18, 2004 through May 18, 2004. By this amendment, 2 new claims have been added. A check in the amount of \$986 is enclosed to cover the \$950 extension of time fee and the \$36 additional claim fee.

In response to the Office action of November 18, 2003, paper no. 5, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

**Amendments to the Specification** begin on page 2 of this paper.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 3 of this paper.

**Amendments to the Drawings** begin on page 13 of this paper and include attached replacement sheets.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 14 of this paper.

05/24/2004 HVUONG1 00000004 09612582

01 FC:1253      950.00 OP  
02 FC:1202      36.00 OP

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date indicated below.

Robert F. Bodi  
Name of Attorney for Applicant(s)  
May 18, 2004      Signature of Attorney  
Date